

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /090 W

----- 034776

R 151031Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1129

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL ZURICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 0172

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

PARIS FOR OECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, SF

SUBJECT: KRUGERRANDS

REF: (A) PRETORIA 5211 (B) LONDON 15906 (C) BERN 4676

1. DIRECTOR OF SOUTH AFRICAN MINT TELLS US THAT 1975 PRODUCTION OF KRUGERRANDS PLANNED AT ABOUT 150 THOUSAND PER WEEK, I.E., 30 THOUSAND PER DAY DURING FIVE DAY WORK WEEK. FYI: OUR EARLIER FIGURE (REF A) OF 20 THOUSAND RISING TO 30 THOUSAND (NOT 50 THOUSAND - REGRET TYPE) CAME FROM SAME SOURCE. END FYI.

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THOUSAND - REGRET TYPE) CAME FROM SAME SOURCE. END FYI.

2. MINT WAS CLOSED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS DURING HOLIDAYS AND SUPPLY OF BLANKS FROM RAND REFINERY, WHICH STAYED OPEN, HAS BUILD UP. MINT THEREFORE PRODUCING 40 THOUSAND PER ONE SHIFT WORK DAY BUT THIS WILL FALL BACK TO 30 THOUSAND WITHIN FEW WEEKS. FOR SECURITY REASONS, MINT CANNOT EASILY WORK MORE THAN ONE SHIFT AND 30 THOUSAND LEVEL EXPECTED TO BE MAINTAINED FOR FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THIS WOULD GIVE 150 THOUSAND PER FIVE DAY WEEK, 7.5 TO 8 MILLION A YEAR, ALMOST ONE-THIRD OF SA GOLD PRODUCTION.

3. NOTE THAT THESE FIGURES DIFFER FROM THOSE REPORTED BY LONDON (REF B). FIGURE OF 150 THOUSAND PER DAY GIVEN BY ROTHSCHILD ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TO EMBASSY LONDON IS WELL OUT OF LINE AS MINT NOT EQUIPPED TO PRODUCE THIS QUANTITY AND 150 THOUSAND PER DAY WOULD BE 750,000 PER WEEK, OVER 37 MILLION PER YEAR, OR HALF AGAIN AS MUCH AS ENTIRE SA GOLD PRODUCTION.
HURD

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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